

**Michigan State Planning Project for the Uninsured
Data Synthesis Work Group
Meeting Minutes**

Date/Time: September 13, 2005 from 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Location: MPH! - Interactive Learning Center

Attendees:

E. Lopez
C. Wiener
E. Beane
B Ainsworth
A. Barna
R. Garcia-Tosi
G. Chase
G. Burmeister
S. Zachery
K. Miller
T. Wightman
E. Specman-Randall

Topic	Discussion	Conclusion
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Preliminary Draft
10-4-06

<p>Committee objectives, tasks and timelines</p>	<p>The data synthesis workgroup tasks/deadlines must be coordinated with requests and needs as defined by the other committees (such as the Models Workgroup).</p> <p>A preliminary template for reporting was presented at this meeting. Feedback was requested by September 20th.</p> <p>Committee is on the verge of obtaining more information from the employer focus groups and the Town Hall Meetings.</p> <p>It was suggested that the committee develop a Fact Sheet that would include a summary of the information, data and facts that we obtain or conclude.</p> <p>➤ The committee agreed that a spreadsheet with this information could be developed that would include the most credible sources. The Fact Sheet would also identify less credible sources because they may shed light on some issues. The less credible sources include data obtained from other counties due to their smaller budgets etc. However, some comparisons may be drawn from these sources.</p> <p>The committee needs to obtain consistent denominators. For this purpose we will use the most recent census data (2004). However this information won't drill down to the county/regional areas. Consequently, we need to primarily refer to the 2000 Census. When possible more recent census data will be used.</p> <p>For a timeline of workgroup activities and tasks please refer to the Data Synthesis Workgroup Selected Key Dates updated on 8.16.05.</p>	<p>Most of the states in the U.S. have already received state planning grants and have completed the required tasks mandated by the Federal Government so this committee can piggy back off their efforts.</p> <p>The Models Workgroup has requested data on several issues for which data do not exist. However the surveys will provide significant new information</p> <p>This committee needs to prioritize the requests for information and determine whether they can be completed.</p>
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<p>Old Business (status on employer survey)</p>	<p>Employer surveys have been distributed. The response rate for these surveys has been very low (6.6%). Over 9,000 surveys are in the field. Only 55 surveys have been completed in Southeast Michigan. We are also requesting information about the employer's income and the number of employees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The survey has gone out with a cover letter and companies can complete the survey via telephone, the web or through a fax. ➤ Follow-up phone calls are being made to companies that received the survey. Overall, companies have not been enthusiastic about completing the survey because they feel that they have previously provided input and nothing was accomplished and there is a level of distrust in the state government. These issues will be mentioned in our final report. ➤ The high unemployment in Michigan discourages employers from participating. <p>The committee considered other organizations that could be enlisted to try and boost the response rate. These organizations included the Detroit Chamber, NMA, trade associations, Michigan Works offices, American Association of Employers etc. The American Society of Employers could potentially help recruit employers because they have so much data, and could easily ask employers questions about health insurance.</p> <p>A private consulting firm surveyed 465 companies' large groups in Michigan (up to 5,000 employees). The committee may be able to use some of this data but the survey may not have been randomized.</p>	<p>When we report the survey results we will need to rely extensively on national data. The National Coalition on Health in Washington, D.C. may have data that can be used.</p> <p>To be valid, data taken from other sources or through the help of other organizations must be randomized. For this reason, the survey cannot focus on a single industry or industries. However, the committee will determine whether the survey response rate was impacted by industry.</p> <p>The survey data must be gathered by the end of October.</p>
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Status on household report	<p>This committee will continue to discuss the results of the surveys to determine which issues can be analyzed. Separate data runs may be completed for the Models Development Workgroup.</p> <p>For this survey, numbers for 10,000 cell phone users were obtained by 50% of them were inaccurate. We are one of the few states that have attempted to use cell phone to complete this survey. More over, cell phone users may be reluctant to respond to the phone survey because they must pay for the calls.</p> <p>There was no difference in the response rate for cell phone versus land line users. However, the cell phone responses are more accurate, and more expensive.</p> <p>The deadline for feedback is by the end of September.</p>	
Discussion about CPS	<p>The release of the 2004 CPS data on poverty and income are critical. The committee will see what we can glean from the survey results (available on the web).</p> <p>The Alliance for Healthcare Reform provides tools for analyzing the CPS data. They also provide a list of sites and resources for analyzing this data.</p>	
Definition of Insurance	<p>The committee may need to modify the definition of insurance versus the definition of coverage (see definitions of insurance in handouts). Coverage is a set of services made available to people via an entity or community organization (e.g. three-share plans). Primary care is generally a major part of coverage programs.</p> <p>Our project focuses more on insurance but HRSA is more than willing to look at coverage issues.</p>	
Impact of Katrina	<p>The U.S. has put many resources into volunteering to address the issues raised by Katrina. This committee should consider what is happening at the federal and state government levels as related to healthcare.</p> <p>The federal government has a conflict with its controls due to homeland security. For example, it will have to provide benefits to residents without paperwork to prove who they are.</p> <p>Also as a result, the federal government will need to shift money to the states who accept evacuees.</p>	

Meeting minutes submitted by Carolyn Wiener on October 5, 2005.